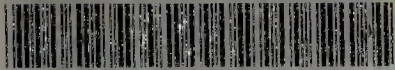


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PISTONS

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PISTONS

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Published by Creative Education
P.O. Box 227
Mankato, Minnesota 56002
Creative Education is an imprint of The Creative Company.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BY ZENO DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Getty Images (NBAE)

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Printed in the United States of America

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

Frisch, Aaron.
Detroit Pistons / by Aaron Frisch.
p. cm. — (NBA champions)
Includes index.
ISBN-13: 978-1-58341-506-1
1. Detroit Pistons (Basketball team)—History.
2. Basketball—History. I. Title.

GV885.52.D47F745 2007
796.323'640977434—dc22 2006020238

First edition

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

COVER PHOTO: Point guard Chauncey Billups



THE PISTONS are a professional basketball team in the National Basketball Association (NBA). They play in Detroit, Michigan. Detroit has a lot of factories that build cars. It is nicknamed "The Motor City."

Detroit is next to a big lake called Lake Erie. ▷

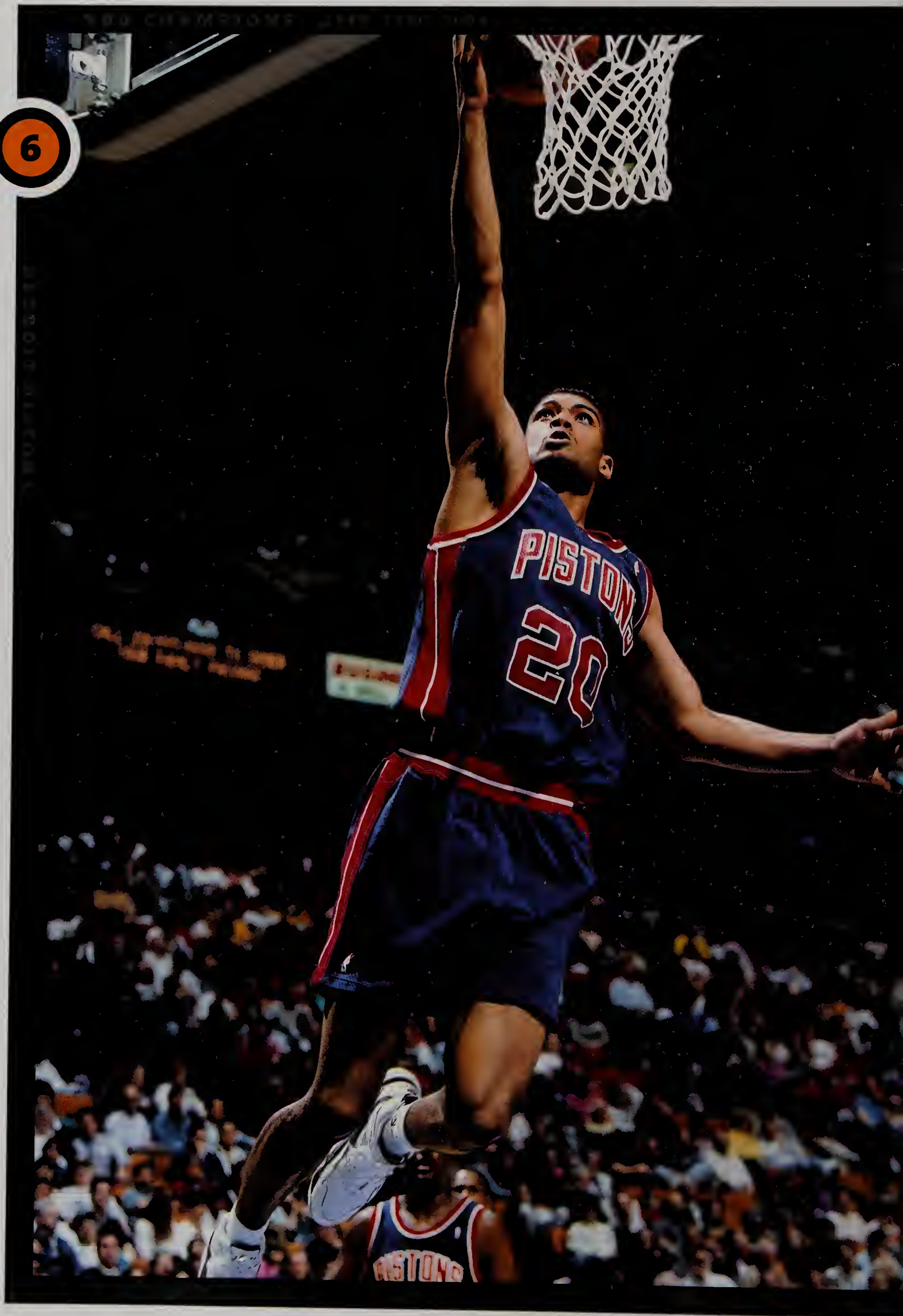


NBA CHAMPIONS 1989 1990 1994

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DETROIT PISTONS

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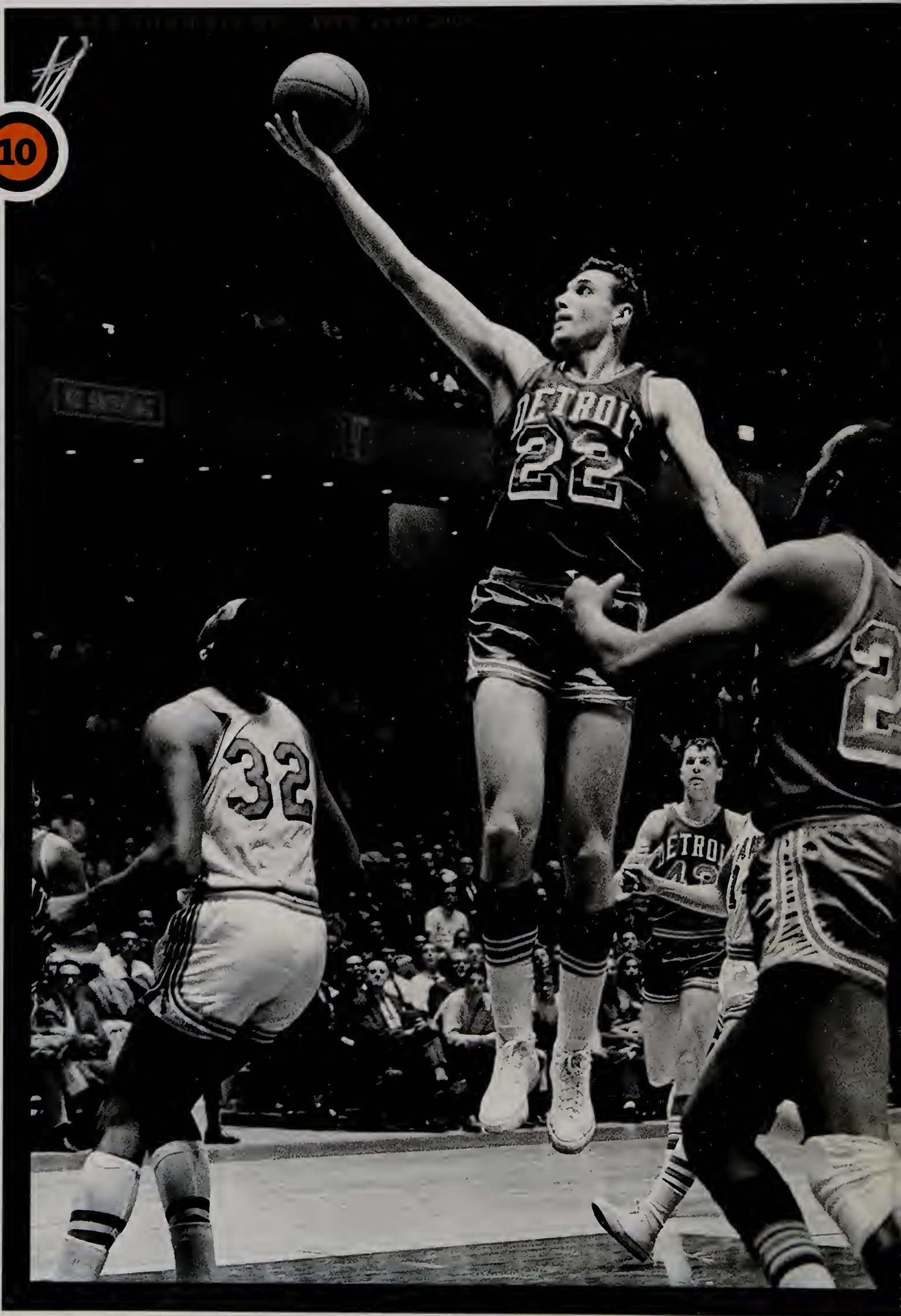
THE PISTONS' arena is called The Palace of Auburn Hills. Their uniforms are blue, red, and white. The Pistons play lots of games against teams called the Bucks, Bulls, Cavaliers, and Pacers.

◁ The Palace of Auburn Hills is almost 20 years old

THE PISTONS played their first season in 1941. They started out in a different town called Fort Wayne, Indiana. They played in Fort Wayne for 16 seasons. Then they moved to Detroit.

The Pistons moved to "The Motor City" in 1957 ▷





DAVE DEBUSSCHERE *(deh-BUSH-er)*

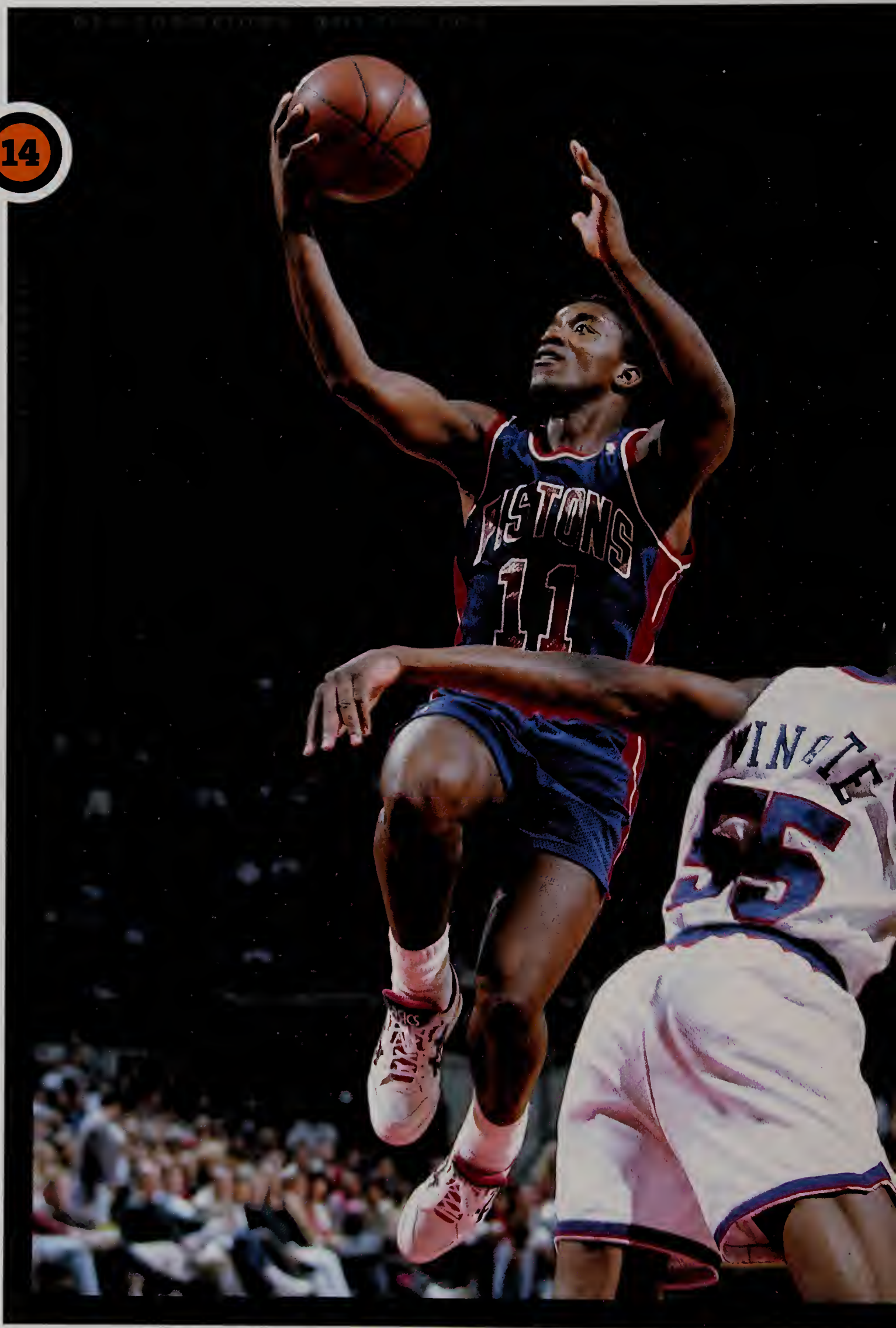
was one of the Pistons' first stars. He played guard and forward and always hustled and played tough defense. But the Pistons did not make the playoffs very often.

◀ Dave DeBusschere made lots of steals and baskets

CENTER Bob Lanier (*luh-NEER*) was another good player. He was so big that he needed size 22 shoes! He helped the Pistons win a lot of games. But they still could not win the NBA championship.

Bob Lanier was one of the NBA's strongest players ►





IN 1981, Detroit added point guard Isiah Thomas. He set a team **record** for assists (passes that let his teammates score). Forward Dennis Rodman was another star player. He helped Detroit play tight defense and get rebounds.

◁ Isiah Thomas was small, but he was smart and fast

IN 1989, the Pistons finally won their first NBA championship. They were so tough that fans called them the "Bad Boys." They won the championship again the next year, too!

Dennis Rodman was Detroit's best player on defense ►





THE PISTONS were not as great in the 1990s. But then they got some new players and became the NBA's best team again. Ben Wallace was a forward with big muscles. He helped Detroit win another NBA championship in 2004.

◁ Forward Ben Wallace's nickname was "Big Ben"

CHAUNCEY BILLUPS was another good Pistons player. He was a point guard who played tough defense and was a good leader. The Pistons have many new players today. Detroit fans hope that their team will win the NBA championship again soon!

Chauncey Billups played for five different NBA teams ▷



GLOSSARY

ARENA a building with lots of seats where teams play basketball

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA)

a group of basketball teams that play against each other; there are 30 teams in the NBA today

PLAYOFFS games that are played after the season to see which team is the best

PROFESSIONAL a person or team that gets paid to play or work

RECORD something that is the best (or most) ever

FUN FACTS

TEAM COLORS: Blue, red, and white

HOME ARENA: The Palace of Auburn Hills

CONFERENCE/DIVISION: Eastern Conference, Central Division

FIRST SEASON: 1941

NBA CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1989, 1990, 2004

GREAT PLAYERS: Bob Lanier (center), Isiah Thomas (point guard), Chauncey Billups (point guard)

NBA WEB SITE FOR KIDS: <http://www.nba.com/kids/>

TEAM NAME: The Pistons got their name because their first owner had a company that made car parts. A piston is part of a car engine. It moves fast to make the car go.

INDEX

"Bad Boys" 16

Billups, Chauncey 20, 23

DeBusschere, Dave 11

Fort Wayne, Indiana 8

Lanier, Bob 12, 23

NBA championships 16, 19, 23

Palace of Auburn Hills 7, 23

playoffs 11

Rodman, Dennis 15

team colors 7, 23

Thomas, Isiah 15, 23

Wallace, Ben 19

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